

Message Text

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ACTION EB-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 ISO-00 CAB-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5553

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, WB, FR, UK, US

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: AEROAMERICA

REF: A) STATE 214582; B) BONN 15559; C) BONN 15135

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED A LETTER SIGNED BY JOEL EISENBERG FORMALLY SEEKING ALLIED AUTHORITY TO OPERATE FROM BERLIN. THE LETTER ENCLOSED AN INSURANCE CERTIFICATE AND A PHOTO COPY OF AEROAMERICA'S 121 CERTIFICATE. WE HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THE LETTER POINTING OUT THAT AS CAA CONSIDERATION OF THE APPLICATION PROCEEDS FURTHER INFORMATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION MAY BE NECESSARY.

2. DURING BRIEF MEETING AT TEMPELHOF OCT 8, AEROAMERICA OFFICIAL MATTUS SOUGHT EMB CAA'S VIEWS RE PROSPECTS FOR AEROAMERICA'S APPLICATION TO OPERATE FROM BERLIN. MATTUS SAID THAT THE BERLINER FLUG RING (BFR) WAS NOW SEEKING PROMPT ASSURANCES THAT AEROAMERICA WOULD BE ABLE OPERATE THE FORMER'S SUMMER PROGRAM. MOREOVER, A NUMBER OF OTHER TRAVEL ORGANIZERS HAD INQUIRED WHETHER AEROAMERICA WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO OPERATE CHARTER FLIGHTS THIS

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WINTER. RE MODERN AIR EMPLOYEES, MATTUS EXPLAINED

THAT THE AMJORITY WOULD BE FURLOUGHED AT THE END OF OCT WITH THE EXPECTATION OF RETURNING TO WORK FOR AEROAMERICA WHEN THE SUMMER 1975 SEASON BEGINS.

3. MATTUS PROVIDED EMB CAA WITH A FORMAL APPLICATION FOR AN AEROAMERICA DEMONSTRATION FLIGHT FROM UNITED STATES TO TEGEL ON OCT 23. THE AIRCRAFT, A 720 IN AEROAMERICA'S COLORS, WOULD REMAIN ON DISPLAY AT TEGEL SOUTH FOR SEVERAL DAYS, DEPARTING OCT 28 FOR BRUSSELS. ACCORDING TO MATTUS, AEROAMERICA OWNER JOEL EISENBERG AND "DIGNITARIES FROM THE SEATTLE AREA" WOULD BE ABOARD THE AIRCRAFT. CAA REITERATED THAT AUTHORITY FOR WEST BERLIN OPERATIONS WAS A TRIPARTITE RESPONSIBILITY AND THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT AT THIS JUNCTURE TO PREDICT THE LENGTH OF TIME IT WOULD TAKE TO CONCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF AEROAMERICA'S APPLI-ATION TO INITIATE BERLIN CHARTER OPERATIONS. WE PROMISED TO BE BACK IN TOUCH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON THE APPLICATION FOR THE FLIGHT TO TEGEL SOUTH.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH AEROAMERICA HAS GARNERED SOME BERLIN PUBLICITY, IT APPEARS THAT IT HAS, IN FACT, MADE NO FIRM COMMITMENTS--ARRANGEMENT WITH THE BFR IS BASED ON A LETTER OF INTENT, NOT A CONTRACT. GIVEN AEROAMERICA'S PROPOSED OCT 23 FLIGHT, HOWEVER, WE NOW BELIEVE IT ADVISABLE TO TABLE BOTH APPLICATIONS IN THE CAA FORUM. WE COULD FOR THE PRESENT, AT LEAST, AVOID PRESENTING A FINAL US POSITION ON AEROAMERICA WHILE AT THE SAME TIME SOLICITING BRITISH AND FRENCH VIEWS. HILLENBRAND

5. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT'S VIEWS.
HILLENBRAND

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